

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Most of us take it for granted that we can walk unaided through a crowded store or street. We give little thought to our freedom to come and go as we please, yet there are over 3,400 citizens of the State of South Dakota whose vision is so impaired that every corner is a place of danger; and,

WHEREAS, For many of these people, help comes in the form of a white cane. This eight-ounce, long white stick is as useful as it is simple. For a blind person, it is a kind of beacon. In the hands of someone trained in its skillful use, the white cane becomes an extension of the body, providing assurance that the path ahead is clear; and,

WHEREAS, For others, a dog guide is their chosen means of independent mobility. These highly trained dogs respond to their master's voice commands or to signals communicated through the harness; and,

WHEREAS, Upon encountering someone using a white cane or dog guide, those of us who are fortunate enough to see well should slow our pace for a moment to notice if the person seems to need assistance. Offering an arm to a blind person crossing the street or guiding him or her around a barrier requires only a few moments. Indeed, just yielding the right-of-way to a blind person can make the difference between a pleasant and safe excursion or a frustrating and possibly hazardous one. Motorists, cyclists, and joggers should be especially alert to the person with a white cane or dog guide; and,

WHEREAS, To heighten public awareness of the importance of the white cane or dog guide to the independence and safety of blind and visually handicapped residents of the State of South Dakota:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 15-21, 1980, as

WHITE CANE WEEK

In South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, In Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty

William J. Janklow
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

Allen L. Gardner
ALLEN L. GARDNER, SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
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